

Completing a Power Analysis

One of the most maturing experiences for newcomers to the public policy arena is to honestly evaluate their powers and capabilities. Answering the following questions honestly will help community health activists analyze themselves, their issue, and their opponents.

Power Analysis

1. How much experience and political clout do you think you have in the public policy arena?
 - Enough to ram the whole thing through uncompromised?
 - Enough to take a small first step?
 - Not much at all?
2. How much experience and clout do the administration officials whose behaviors you hope to change have?
 - Enough to stop you cold?
 - Enough to help you win the whole thing?
 - Enough to help you win a small, first step?
3. How much experience and clout do your legislative supporters have?
 - Enough to help you ram the whole thing through?
 - Enough to help you make an incremental first step?
4. How much experience and clout do your legislative opponents have?
 - Enough to stop you cold?
 - Enough to force you to accept a small, first step?
5. How much power does your problem and proposed solution have among the public?
 - Does anybody besides you know or care about this problem?
 - Does the affected constituency know about this problem?
 - Does the press know about this problem?
 - Do politicians know about this problem?
6. How much power can you borrow from allies?

7. What compromises to your solution will you have to make to persuade them to join your coalition?

Adapted from *Real Clout* © 1999 Judith C. Meredith and Catherine M. Dunham